

Great Lakes Steel operations in Ecorse and River Rouge, a move that saved hundreds of jobs in the community. The DCC also coordinates emergency services across member communities, and has supported cleanup efforts at the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge. These multifaceted operations undertaken by the DCC have been critical to attracting a talented workforce to the area while making southern Wayne County a desirable place to live.

The DCC has proven to be an effective advocate on behalf of Downriver, and its work has produced tangible results that make a real difference in the lives of individuals in participating communities. Through its affiliation with Michigan Works!, the organization has been critical to helping provide individuals with the skills they need to succeed in trades and other in-demand fields. Additionally, the organization's coordinated approach makes it eligible for federal and state grants that would normally be unavailable to individual communities. The DCC's ability to leverage the unique strengths of the Downriver community has made it a model in effective and sustainable workforce and community development efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Downriver Community Conference and date of its 40th Anniversary Dinner. The organization has played an integral role in the growth and development of southern Wayne County and the surrounding areas.

FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inaugural First Responder Appreciation Day on April 1, 2017, in Ripon, California.

Policemen, firefighters, and emergency medical servicemen play a crucial role in our local communities. In Ripon, they work diligently to serve the city and surrounding areas, improving the lives of those they have vowed to protect. Their job is not always easy and often not safe, but it is one they selflessly perform nonetheless. For this reason, First Responders deserve our unwavering recognition.

The Ripon City Council acknowledged this on November 8, 2016, when they passed a resolution to establish the first Saturday in April of each year as First Responders Appreciation Day. Dedicated to honoring all First Responders, past and present, this annual celebration serves as a reminder that we must not forget those who keep us safe.

I applaud the City of Ripon for honoring our local heroes and their incredible service. This Saturday is the first of many celebrations that will focus on the daily sacrifices performed by these brave men and women.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring all First Responders and commending the city of Ripon for implementing First Responders Appreciation Day.

SMITHSONIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as we conclude Women's History Month, I am pleased to introduce the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act along with Rep. ED ROYCE and 128 bipartisan cosponsors.

In November 2016, a bipartisan commission that was created through a bill I authored submitted its recommendations to Congress about establishing a women's history museum in our nation's capital. The Commission unanimously said in its report that the U.S. needs and deserves such a museum to properly tell our whole history. In fact, in the entire country, there is no comprehensive museum solely devoted to women's history. Women make up half the population, but are only depicted in about 10 percent of history book material, about 5 percent of national monuments and a fraction of the hundreds of statues on Capitol grounds. By not telling or preserving the stories of women who shaped our country, we are in danger of losing them completely. And that would be a great loss to us all.

This bill has been decades in the making and it is based on the excellent American Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission final report, which was the result of 18 months of thorough study. The bill would establish a Smithsonian museum dedicated to women's history prominently located on the National Mall. It calls for the Smithsonian Board of Regents to designate a site for the museum within six months of enactment, and the cost of construction would be raised privately. The museum will be governed by a 25-member Advisory Council appointed by the Board of Regents.

I am honored that so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have joined me in this historic effort because honoring women's history should not be a partisan issue. All Americans—men and women of all ages—deserve to learn and be inspired by the stories of the women who contributed to our country's history.

I am always struck by the story of Sybil Ludington. Everyone has heard of Paul Revere's ride, but few know that Ludington, the daughter of a colonel in the Continental Army, was just a 16 year old girl when she rode through the night an even greater distance than Revere to warn her father's troops about the approaching British forces.

I have worked on this issue for many years and believe that establishing a women's history museum on the National Mall is long overdue. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in this important effort to create an enduring tribute to women's history for generations to come.

HONORING FRANK BARBARO

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take a few moments today to honor one my con-

stituents, Mr. Frank Barbaro, for his decades of incredible service to Orange County.

Mr. Barbaro was born in Detroit, Michigan and arrived in California in 1954. From a young age, it was clear that Mr. Barbaro was bound to be successful. By the time he was a teenager, Frank hosted his own radio show which aimed to find employment opportunities for young people.

After graduating from Garden Grove High School, Mr. Barbaro went on to graduate magna cum laude from the University of Southern California and then earn his law degree, also from USC.

As a lawyer, Mr. Barbaro distinguished himself among his peers in several noteworthy cases. Mr. Barbaro won 11 multimillion dollar verdicts for his clients.

Mr. Barbaro began his career in politics in 1977 as Chair of the Democratic Party of California. In 2001, Mr. Barbaro was asked by his colleagues to serve as chair once again which he did until his resignation in 2013. Mr. Barbaro also served as the chair for the Orange County campaigns of President Carter and President Obama.

During his time as party chair and successful attorney, Frank's colleagues praised his ability to inspire and work with others. Above all, Mr. Barbaro sought to be inclusive and bring people together despite their differences.

Mr. Barbaro also made helping others a personal goal, such as when he organized the "Front Line Defense Fund" which delivered food to the United Food and Commercial workers during their strike.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Barbaro is an example to all of us of the tremendous importance of hard work and dedication in service to others. I am honored to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Barbaro and the positive impact he has made on Orange County.

CONGRATULATING ANDERS BJORK ON BEING NAMED A FINALIST FOR THE HOCKEY HUMANITARIAN AWARD

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anders Bjork, a junior at the University of Notre Dame, on being named one of five finalists for the 2017 Hockey Humanitarian Award.

Each year, the Hockey Humanitarian Award recognizes college hockey's "finest citizen." Recipients of this award are individuals who have made significant, long-lasting contributions to their communities in a true, humanitarian spirit.

Anders has been a member of the Fighting Irish Men's Hockey team since his freshman year at Notre Dame. But for Anders, his life here in South Bend is about more than being a student athlete. He is part of this community and plays an integral role in making it better. His dedication is especially clear in his experience working with children in need at a local elementary school.

Shortly before last season started, Anders began volunteering in a third grade class at Perley Fine Arts Academy after his coach encouraged the team to meet new community

service goals. Anders' weekly trips to the elementary school quickly became much more than a way to fulfill a coach's request. He built deep relationships with the students and became a regular fixture in the classroom. He even has his own desk.

The bond forged between the young kids and Anders was not hard to see. Anders found a way to fit in not only with the classroom dynamic but also with the individual students. For the Perley students Anders is a mentor, a role model, and a friend. Through Anders' uplifting spirit and kind heart, these third graders are able to open up to and really learn from him.

His incredible commitment of time and talent and his positive impact on these kids is an inspiration to us all. I am so proud of Anders for this much deserved recognition as a finalist for the Hockey Humanitarian Award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 2nd District, I want to thank Anders Bjork for providing the wonderful support and encouragement I'm sure will stay with these children for years to come. He has truly left a mark on the South Bend community, and I look forward to the great things that lie ahead in his future.

TRIBUTE TO PAT HENSLEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pat Hensley of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on his retirement from Hy-Vee food store after 38 dedicated years of service.

Pat has worked for Hy-Vee since 1979, when he began a part-time job at a local store. Early on, Hy-Vee recognized his leadership skills, and over the years trusted him in a number of positions, from managing stores, overseeing the company's western district, helping to lead the government relations department, and finishing his career serving as senior vice president, non-foods. Over his 38-year career Pat's goal was to ensure, as the commercials said, that there was a helpful smile in every aisle, and that Hy-Vee was an enjoyable environment for customers and employees alike. Pat is leaving behind a legacy of dedication and hard work after decades of service to one of Iowa's premier companies.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Pat today for his outstanding career at Hy-Vee. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating

Pat on this momentous occasion and in wishing him and his family nothing but the best in his retirement.

CONGRATS MINNETONKA BOYS SWIMMING TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Minnetonka Boys High School Swimming Team on winning the Minnesota Swim and Dive High School State Championship.

After finishing second in the state the past two years, the Skippers were determined to claim the top spot this year. Led by senior Sam Schilling, Minnetonka dominated the competition by winning many of the events and breaking multiple state records along the way too. They even set the National Public High School 200-yard medley relay record, coming in at 1:29:20, a few tenths faster than the previous record set in Indiana earlier this season.

The championship victory earned by the boys on the Minnetonka High School swim team is a testament to their unwavering commitment to hard work and excellence.

Mr. Speaker, Your families, friends, and our entire community are very proud of each and every one of these outstanding student athletes. Congratulations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "INVESTING IN AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2017"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Small Business Week, a time each year for our nation to recognize and celebrate the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

I am pleased to support our nation's small businesses by introducing the Investing in America's Small Businesses Act of 2017. This important legislation allows Community Development Financial Institutions, known as CDFIs, to extend affordable credit to more small businesses in underserved communities

through microloans. These small loans, under \$50,000, give businesses working capital, help them invest in new equipment or supplies, and have no pre-payment penalties.

I'm proud that the Investing in America's Small Businesses Act has gained the endorsements of the CDFI Coalition, the Opportunity Finance Network and the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, the national voices for these community-based institutions.

The bill provides grants for CDFIs to establish loan-loss reserve funds for microloans, which will help CDFIs leverage private investment to expand small business lending in underserved communities.

Small businesses are critical engines of economic development and job creation. In underserved communities, however, small businesses with low-income and minority owners often have limited access to affordable credit they need to meet everyday demands or expand their operations. According to a study commissioned by the U.S. Small Business Administration in 2013, "the major constraint limiting the growth, expansion, and wealth creation of small firms—especially women- and minority-owned businesses—is inadequate capital."

Community Development Financial Institutions serve exactly these communities—with great success and economic benefit. In fact, a 2014 report by the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia found that despite serving predominately low-income markets, CDFI banks and credit unions had virtually the same level of performance as mainstream financial institutions. Despite this demonstrated success, CDFIs often lack the capital to meet the needs of many promising small businesses.

In FY 2016 the total funding from applications to the CDFI Fund was four times greater than the resources available. Private sector investments are not enough to address the significant need for small business credit in underserved communities. CDFIs need access to capital now more than ever. Research shows that minority and low income-owned businesses typically encounter higher borrowing costs, receive smaller loans and see their loan applications rejected more often. The CDFI Fund is well-placed to provide struggling small businesses and entrepreneurs in underserved communities access to affordable credit through microloans.

Let's give small businesses in underserved areas the tools they need to create jobs and develop their communities. I am pleased to introduce this bill, and urge my colleagues to join in support.